



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

United States Patent and Trademark Office

Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/601,530	06/24/2003	Kimihide Takahashi	Q76183	9526
23373 7590 09/22/2008				
SUGHRUE MION, PLLC				
2100 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE, N.W.				
SUITE 800				
WASHINGTON, DC 20037				
EXAMINER				
MISLEH, JUSTIN P				
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
2622				
MAIL DATE		DELIVERY MODE		
09/22/2008		PAPER		

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/601,530

Applicant(s)

TAKAHASHI, KIMIHIIDE

Examiner

JUSTIN P. MISLEH

Art Unit

2622

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 11 June 2008.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1 - 10 and 12 - 21 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 12, 20 and 21 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1 - 10 and 13 - 19 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 11 June 2008 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☒ Other: Approved Drawings

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's arguments filed June 11, 2008 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.
2. Applicant argues, "The trigger and linkages cited by the Examiner may indicate connection to a camera but do not set the mode of the camera."
3. The Examiner does not agree with Applicant's position. The Examiner stated, in the Office Action, "the buttons 34 and 38 function as a signal changing device that generates command signals for changing functions of the digital camera only when the position of the triggering mechanism indicates that the camera is mounted" (see page 6, end of continued paragraph). Furthermore, as stated by the Examiner in the Office Action (see page 6), these buttons are activated by triggering mechanism. Thus the buttons 34 and 38 cannot generate a command signal when the triggering mechanism does not indicate that the camera is mounted on the dock. On the other hand, the claim language does not specify the details of "according to a position". It is important to note that the claim language does not require that the triggering mechanism is what causes the signal changing device to generate the command signal, rather it requires that signal changing device generates a command according to the position of the triggering mechanism. As shown above, Gennetten indeed teaches where the buttons are provided with the capability to generate a command signal for the camera only when activated by the triggering mechanism. Thus, the buttons generate a command signal according to the position of movable portions.

4. Applicant additionally argues, “The powering down of the camera would defeat the object of Gennetten, which is to provide an electronic picture frame.”

5. The Examiner does not agree with this statement. The Examiner acknowledges that a main object of Gennetten is to provide an electronic picture frame. However, the Examiner respectfully submits that to support this object, it is necessary for the camera to function in a conventional manner. For example, Gennetten states, “[when] camera 1 is undocked, the processor is alerted that the connection between the camera 1 and dock 3 is no longer there and camera 1 reverts to its conventional features” (see paragraph 0031). Furthermore, Gennetten states, “when the camera has been idle in dock 3 ... camera 1 goes into an electronic picture frame ... and displays a continuous slide show in image LCD 2 of the images stored in the memory of camera 1” (see paragraph 0045). Hence, in order to provide support for Gennetten’s electronic picture frame, it becomes desirable to have the camera battery fully charged as often as possible during its conventional use.

6. Even though Gennetten teaches that the battery is charged while the camera has been docked, idle and in electronic picture frame mode, it would be advantageous to completely power down the camera to charge the battery. The use of camera functions, such as the camera LCD, inherently requires use of camera resources. The battery cannot be charged as efficiently and quickly while those resources are being used. Thus, powering down the camera minimizes the use of camera resources which promotes an efficient charging of the battery. For this reason, it is not necessarily true that the powering down of the camera would defeat the object of Gennetten to provide an electronic picture frame, as alleged by Applicant.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

7. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

8. **Claims 1 – 10, 13, 14, and 16 – 19** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gennetten (US 2004/0201774 A1) in view of Ohmura (US 7,301,561 B2).

9. For **Claim 1**, Gennetten discloses, as shown in figures 2A – 2C and 3A – 3B, a digital camera system comprising a digital camera (1 – figure 2A) and a removable cradle (3 – figure 2A) on which the digital camera is mounted (see figure 2A), wherein:

the removable cradle (3) comprises:

a movable portion (11, 9, 30, and 19 – figure 3B and paragraph 0051);

a signal generating device which generates a command signal for changing functions of the digital camera according to a position of the movable portion (The triggering mechanism, including elements 11, 9, 30, and 19 housed in the dock 3, signal to both the dock 3 and the camera 1 that the camera 1 is mounted on the dock 3; see paragraph 0051. In response to the mounting, the TV button 34 and PC Button 38 light up and the LED 50 blinks to indicate that the camera 1 is mated and is recharging; see paragraph 0039. When the PC Button 38, for instance, is lit up and is subsequently pressed, the camera 1 is connected to a PC via the dock 3; see paragraph 0042. Therefore, the buttons 34 and 38 function as a signal changing device that generates command signals for changing functions of the digital camera only when the position of the triggering mechanism indicates that the camera is mounted.); and

a signal transmitting device which transmits the command signal generated by the signal generating device to the digital camera (Although the contents of the dock 3 are not clearly identified by Gennetten, there must be a signal transmitting device housed within the dock 3 to inform the camera 1 that the buttons 34 and 38 have been operated; see paragraph 0046);

and the digital camera (1) comprises:

a signal receiving device which receives the command signal generated according to the position of the movable portion of the removable cradle (Although the contents of the camera 1 are not clearly identified by Gennetten, there must be a signal receiving device housed within the camera 1 to inform the LCD 2 within the camera 1 that the buttons 34 and 38 have been operated; see paragraphs 0046 and 0031.); and

a mode control device which changes operation modes of the digital camera according to the command signal transmitted from the removable cradle (see paragraphs 0046 and 0031);

said system (figure 2A) further comprising a charge control device which, when the digital camera (1) is mounted on the removable cradle (3), automatically sets a charge mode where a battery in the digital camera is charged by power supplied through the removable cradle (Although the contents of the camera 1 and dock 3 are not clearly identified by Gennetten, there must be a charge control device included within the system and a battery included in the camera 1 to facilitate recharging of the battery; see paragraphs 0039 and 0046).

While Gennetten indicates that the dock (3) automatically recharges the camera (1) battery when the camera (1) is mounted on the dock (3), Gennetten does not specify that the camera (1) must be powered down before recharging the battery.

On the other hand, Ohmura also discloses a camera and cradle system for recharging a camera battery. Specifically, Ohmura teaches, as shown in figures 1, 2, 4, and 5, a digital camera (6) and a cradle (5), where the cradle has mounting portion and the mounting portion is provided with a power supply connector (5f; see column 4, lines 14 – 18). Ohmura additionally teaches, “in automatic response to the mounting of the digital camera 6 on the docking station 5, the data transmission is initially triggered to automatically transmit the entire digital image signal in the digital camera to the image storage 4 through the cable 4b ... [on] the completion of the data transmission, the power charging is automatically triggered, and automatically terminated on its completion” (see column 4, lines 35 – 45). Moreover, Ohmura specifically indicates, as shown in figures 6 and 7, that the camera (6) is powered off prior to recharging the camera battery via the cradle (5; see steps S164 – S168).

Hence, at the time the invention was made, it would have been obvious to one with ordinary skill in the art to have incorporated powering off the camera prior to recharging the camera battery, as taught by Ohmura, in the digital camera system, disclosed by Gennetten, for the advantage of reducing the time spent recharging the battery by minimizing user interaction with the system during the recharging.

10. As for **Claim 13**, Gennetten discloses, as shown in figures 2A – 2C, wherein the operation modes comprise a camera mode and a non-camera mode (The Examiner considers the mode corresponding to the PC Button 38 as the camera mode and the mode corresponding to the TV Button 34 as the non-camera mode).

11. As for **Claim 14**, Gennetten discloses, as shown in figures 2A – 2C, wherein the camera mode comprises a PC camera mode (PC Button 38) and the non-camera mode comprises a

storage function (TV Button 34; The mode corresponding to the PC Button 38 results in the images being downloaded from the camera and processed by the PC – therefore, this mode is a PC camera mode. The mode corresponding to the TV Button 34 results in the images remaining on the camera while being displayed as a slideshow on a TV – therefore, this mode is a non-camera mode.).

12. For **Claim 2**, Gennetten discloses, as shown in figures 2A – 2C and 3A – 3B, a removable cradle (3 – figure 2A) on which the digital camera is mounted (see figure 2A) comprising:

- a movable portion (11, 9, 30, and 19 – figure 3B and paragraph 0051);

- a signal generating device which generates a command signal for changing functions of the digital camera according to a position of the movable portion (The triggering mechanism, including elements 11, 9, 30, and 19 housed in the dock 3, signal to both the dock 3 and the camera 1 that the camera 1 is mounted on the dock 3; see paragraph 0051. In response to the mounting, the TV button 34 and PC Button 38 light up and the LED 50 blinks to indicate that the camera 1 is mated and is recharging; see paragraph 0039. When the PC Button 38, for instance, is lit up and is subsequently pressed, the camera 1 is connected to a PC via the dock 3; see paragraph 0042. Therefore, the buttons 34 and 38 function as a signal changing device that generates command signals for changing functions of the digital camera only when the position of the triggering mechanism indicates that the camera is mounted.); and

- a signal transmitting device which transmits the command signal generated by the signal generating device to the digital camera (Although the contents of the dock 3 are not clearly

identified by Gennetten, there must be a signal transmitting device housed within the dock 3 to inform the camera 1 that the buttons 34 and 38 have been operated; see paragraph 0046); and

a charge control device which, when the digital camera (1) is mounted on the removable cradle (3), automatically sets a charge mode where a battery in the digital camera is charged by power supplied through the removable cradle (Although the contents of the camera 1 and dock 3 are not clearly identified by Gennetten, there must be a charge control device included within the system and a battery included in the camera 1 to facilitate recharging of the battery; see paragraphs 0039 and 0046).

While Gennetten indicates that the dock (3) automatically recharges the camera (1) battery when the camera (1) is mounted on the dock (3), Gennetten does not specify that the camera (1) must be powered down before recharging the battery.

On the other hand, Ohmura also discloses a camera and cradle system for recharging a camera battery. Specifically, Ohmura teaches, as shown in figures 1, 2, 4, and 5, a digital camera (6) and a cradle (5), where the cradle has mounting portion and the mounting portion is provided with a power supply connector (5f; see column 4, lines 14 – 18). Ohmura additionally teaches, “in automatic response to the mounting of the digital camera 6 on the docking station 5, the data transmission is initially triggered to automatically transmit the entire digital image signal in the digital camera to the image storage 4 through the cable 4b ... [on] the completion of the data transmission, the power charging is automatically triggered, and automatically terminated on its completion” (see column 4, lines 35 – 45). Moreover, Ohmura specifically indicates, as shown in figures 6 and 7, that the camera (6) is powered off prior to recharging the camera battery via the cradle (5; see steps S164 – S168).

Hence, at the time the invention was made, it would have been obvious to one with ordinary skill in the art to have incorporated powering off the camera prior to recharging the camera battery, as taught by Ohmura, in the digital camera system, disclosed by Gennetten, for the advantage of reducing the time spent recharging the battery by minimizing user interaction with the system during the recharging.

13. As for **Claim 3**, Gennetten discloses, as shown in figures 3A – 3B, wherein the movable portion (11, 9, 30, and 19 – figure 3B and paragraph 0051) comprises a camera mounting unit (19) on which the digital camera (1) is mounted (see figure 3A).

14. As for **Claim 4**, Gennetten discloses, as shown in figures 3A – 3B, a leg portion (9) which supports the camera mounting unit (19),

wherein the camera mounting unit (19) is coupled to the leg portion (9) through a movable system (11, 9, 30, and 19 – figure 3B and paragraph 0051).

15. As for **Claim 5**, Gennetten discloses, as shown in figures 3A – 3B, wherein the movable system (11, 9, 30, and 19 – figure 3B and paragraph 0051) enables the camera mounting unit (19) to move relatively to the leg portion (9), and

a moving style of the camera mount unit (19) includes at least one of tilting, sliding (shown in figures 3A – 3B), rotating, and vertical moving (shown in figures 3A – 3B) with respect to the leg portion (9).

16. As for **Claim 6**, Gennetten discloses, as shown in figures 3A – 3B, wherein the movable system (11, 9, 30, and 19 – figure 3B and paragraph 0051) enables the movable portion (11, 9, 30, and 19 – figure 3B and paragraph 0051) to move in a predetermined moving range (see figures 3A – 3B).

17. As for **Claim 7**, Gennetten discloses, as shown in figures 3A – 3B, a communications interface (7) for connection and communications with external equipment (see paragraph 0050),

wherein the digital camera (1) is connected to communicate with the external equipment through the removable cradle (3) by mounting the digital camera (1) on the removable cradle (3 – see paragraph 0050).

18. As for **Claim 8**, Gennetten discloses, as shown in figures 3A – 3B, wherein the signal generating device generates a signal for switching functions of the digital camera for the external equipment connected for communications through the removable cradle (The triggering mechanism, including elements 11, 9, 30, and 19 housed in the dock 3, signal to both the dock 3 and the camera 1 that the camera 1 is mounted on the dock 3; see paragraph 0051. In response to the mounting, the TV button 34 and PC Button 38 light up and the LED 50 blinks to indicate that the camera 1 is mated and is recharging; see paragraph 0039. When the PC Button 38, for instance, is lit up and is subsequently pressed, the camera 1 is connected to a PC via the dock 3; see paragraph 0042. Therefore, the buttons 34 and 38 function as a signal changing device that generates command signals for changing functions of the digital camera only when the position of the triggering mechanism indicates that the camera is mounted.).

19. As for **Claim 16**, Gennetten discloses, as shown in figures 2A – 2C, wherein the functions of the digital camera (1) comprise a camera function and a non-camera function (The Examiner considers the function corresponding to the PC Button 38 as the camera function and the function corresponding to the TV Button 34 as the non-camera function).

20. As for **Claim 17**, Gennetten discloses, as shown in figures 2A – 2C, wherein the camera function comprises a PC camera function (PC Button 38) and the non-camera function comprises

a storage function (TV Button 34; The function corresponding to the PC Button 38 results in the images being downloaded from the camera and processed by the PC – therefore, this function is a PC camera function. The function corresponding to the TV Button 34 results in the images remaining on the camera while being displayed as a slideshow on a TV – therefore, this function is a non-camera function.).

21. For **Claim 9**, Gennetten discloses, as shown in figures 2A – 2C and 3A – 3B, a digital camera (1 – figure 2A) capable of being mounted on a removable cradle (3 – figure 2A), the digital camera (1) comprises:

a signal receiving device which receives a command signal generated according to a position of a movable portion of the removable cradle (A triggering mechanism includes elements 11, 9, 30, and 19 housed in the dock 3, and signals both the dock 3 and the camera 1 that the camera 1 is mounted on the dock 3; see paragraph 0051. In response to the mounting, the TV button 34 and PC Button 38 light up and the LED 50 blinks to indicate that the camera 1 is mated and is recharging; see paragraph 0039. When the PC Button 38, for instance, is lit up and is subsequently pressed, the camera 1 is connected to a PC via the dock 3; see paragraph 0042. Although the contents of the camera 1 are not clearly identified by Gennetten, there must be a signal receiving device housed within the camera 1 to inform the LCD 2 within the camera 1 that the buttons 34 and 38 have been operated; see paragraphs 0046 and 0031.); and

a mode control device which changes operation modes of the digital camera according to the command signal transmitted from the removable cradle (see paragraphs 0046 and 0031), and

a charge control device which, when the digital camera (1) is mounted on the removable cradle (3), automatically sets a charge mode where a battery in the digital camera is charged by

power supplied through the removable cradle (Although the contents of the camera 1 and dock 3 are not clearly identified by Gennetten, there must be a charge control device included within the system and a battery included in the camera 1 to facilitate recharging of the battery; see paragraphs 0039 and 0046).

While Gennetten indicates that the dock (3) automatically recharges the camera (1) battery when the camera (1) is mounted on the dock (3), Gennetten does not specify that the camera (1) must be powered down before recharging the battery.

On the other hand, Ohmura also discloses a camera and cradle system for recharging a camera battery. Specifically, Ohmura teaches, as shown in figures 1, 2, 4, and 5, a digital camera (6) and a cradle (5), where the cradle has mounting portion and the mounting portion is provided with a power supply connector (5f; see column 4, lines 14 – 18). Ohmura additionally teaches, “in automatic response to the mounting of the digital camera 6 on the docking station 5, the data transmission is initially triggered to automatically transmit the entire digital image signal in the digital camera to the image storage 4 through the cable 4b ... [on] the completion of the data transmission, the power charging is automatically triggered, and automatically terminated on its completion” (see column 4, lines 35 – 45). Moreover, Ohmura specifically indicates, as shown in figures 6 and 7, that the camera (6) is powered off prior to recharging the camera battery via the cradle (5; see steps S164 – S168).

Hence, at the time the invention was made, it would have been obvious to one with ordinary skill in the art to have incorporated powering off the camera prior to recharging the camera battery, as taught by Ohmura, in the digital camera system, disclosed by Gennetten, for

the advantage of reducing the time spent recharging the battery by minimizing user interaction with the system during the recharging.

22. As for **Claim 10**, Gennetten discloses, as shown in figures 2A – 2C, wherein the operation modes are changed according to the command signal while the digital camera is mounted on the removable cradle and powered up (see paragraph 0039).

23. As for **Claim 18**, Gennetten discloses, as shown in figures 2A – 2C, wherein the operation modes comprise a camera mode and a non-camera mode (The Examiner considers the mode corresponding to the PC Button 38 as the camera mode and the mode corresponding to the TV Button 34 as the non-camera mode).

24. As for **Claim 19**, Gennetten discloses, as shown in figures 2A – 2C, wherein the camera mode comprises a PC camera mode (PC Button 38) and the non-camera mode comprises a storage function (TV Button 34; The mode corresponding to the PC Button 38 results in the images being downloaded from the camera and processed by the PC – therefore, this mode is a PC camera mode. The mode corresponding to the TV Button 34 results in the images remaining on the camera while being displayed as a slideshow on a TV – therefore, this mode is a non-camera mode.).

25. **Claim 15** is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gennetten (US 2004/0201774 A1) in view of Ohmura (US 7,301,561 B2) in further view of Nagaoka (US 6,734,915 B2).

26. As for **Claim 15**, Gennetten discloses, as shown in figures 2A – 2C, wherein the operation modes comprise a camera mode and a non-camera mode (The Examiner considers the

mode corresponding to the PC Button 38 as the camera mode and the mode corresponding to the TV Button 34 as the non-camera mode). Gennetten also discloses, as shown in figures 2A – 2C, wherein the camera mode comprises a PC camera mode (PC Button 38) and the non-camera mode comprises a storage function (TV Button 34; The mode corresponding to the PC Button 38 results in the images being downloaded from the camera and processed by the PC – therefore, this mode is a PC camera mode. The mode corresponding to the TV Button 34 results in the images remaining on the camera while being displayed as a slideshow on a TV – therefore, this mode is a non-camera mode.).

However, neither Gennetten nor Ohmura specifies that in the storage mode the digital camera functions as a cardreader and in the PC camera mode the digital camera functions as a PC camera.

On the other hand, Nagaoka also discloses a digital camera system comprising a cradle and digital camera to be mounted on the cradle. Specifically, Nagaoka shows, in figure 1, a digital camera (14) mountable on the cradle (11), wherein a mode of the digital camera is changed according to its mounting style on the cradle (11). Nagaoka shows, in figure 7, wherein the mode of the digital camera (14) is changed to a PC camera mode (e.g., when the digital camera is mounted with the imaging lens facing towards the user) or a non-camera storage mode (e.g., when the digital camera is mounted with the imaging lens facing away from the user). Finally Nagaoka shows, in figure 7, and states, in column 5 (line 29) - column 6 (line 20), wherein in the PC camera mode the digital camera functions as a PC camera and in the non-camera storage mode the digital camera functions as a cardreader.

Hence, at the time the invention was made, it would have been obvious to one with ordinary skill in the art to have included wherein in the storage mode the digital camera functions as a cardreader and in the PC camera mode the digital camera functions as a PC camera, as taught by Nagaoka, in the digital camera system, taught in-combination by Gennetten in view of Ohmura, for the advantage *of realizing various functions with a digital camera at a practical level* (see Nagaoka; column 2, lines 34 – 37).

Allowable Subject Matter

27. **Claims 12, 20, and 21** are allowed. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter:

28. The closest prior art does not teach or fairly suggest a digital camera system in which a digital camera is connected to communicate with external equipment when the camera is removably mounted on a cradle, wherein the cradle comprises: a tilt angle changing device which changes a tilt angle of the digital camera mounted on the cradle; a determination device which determines a change in the tilt angle of the digital camera by the tilt angle changing device; and a command device which outputs a function change signal to the digital camera according to a determination result of the determination device, wherein the digital camera changes functions for the external equipment according to the function change signal received from the command device, and said system further comprising a charge control device which, when the digital camera is removably mounted on the cradle with the digital camera being powered down, automatically sets a charge mode where a battery in the digital camera is charged by power supplied through the cradle.

Conclusion

29. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

30. A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

31. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the Examiner should be directed to Justin P Misleh whose telephone number is 571.272.7313. The Examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the Examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the Examiner's supervisor, Sinh Tran can be reached on 571.272.7564. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571.273.8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR

Art Unit: 2622

system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

**/Justin P. Misleh/
Primary Examiner
Group Art Unit 2622
September 20, 2008**